

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

Press Release

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For more information, contact Icelandic State Park (701) 265-4561

Winter on the Northern Plains

If you think winters are tough now, imagine what it was like as a pioneer homesteading in the harsh winters of North Dakota. The Northeastern North Dakota Heritage Association is featuring “Winter on the Northern Plains” to give visitors an idea of what winter was like in North Dakota.

This exhibit is showcasing the many aspects of winter pioneer living. It features historic photographs of winter homesteading, as well as narratives on the wintertime pioneer lifestyle. Pioneers endured blustery winters, but they enjoyed them just as we do today. Past and present winter activities have many similarities including ice skating and sledding.

The exhibit features winter equipment of the past and present-day. Some winter gear such as clothing (furs), ice skates, sleds, snowshoes and cross-country skis will be on display for viewing. There is even a dog sled on exhibition because it is still a winter activity popular today.

While visiting the winter exhibit, feel free to enjoy the other winter activities open at Icelandic State Park. Stop into the Pioneer Heritage Center to view the exhibits and grab a map of nearly six miles of cross-country ski and snowshoe trails. The campground is open to sledding, and there is ice fishing on Lake Renwick.

The exhibit is free of charge in accordance with a daily pass, annual pass, or a NENDHA membership. The new annual pass featuring Icelandic State Park is now available for purchase. The Pioneer Heritage Center at Icelandic State Park is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Winter hours also include Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. The center is closed on Saturday. Icelandic State Park is located 5 ½ miles west of Cavalier, ND on State Highway 5. To view the exhibit, drive into the main park entrance; DO NOT follow the construction detour signs.

For more information contact Char Binstock at (701) 265-4561. For more on Icelandic State Park go to www.parkrec.nd.gov.